

**PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ORGANOCCLAYS****ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

[0053] A method for preparing organocclays for use as rheological control agents and in the preparation of nanocomposites. Typically, the clay is dispersed in water, and a specific amount of polymeric hydrotrope, ranging from 0.1 to 15 weight percent relative to the weight of the clay, is adsorbed onto the clay surface. Quaternary amine exchange is also performed on the clay to modify the surface hydrophilic/lipophilic balance (HLB) of the clay.

003.321604.2